

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
720 HOUSE ANNEX NO. 1
(202) 226-7641

Washington, DC 20541

July 8, 1988

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

JUL 11 1988

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

As you know, on June 21, 1988, the Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials held a hearing on the proposed Vietnam Women's Memorial.

During the course of that hearing, I requested the minutes from the Commission's meeting in which this commemorative was initially rejected. I would appreciate it if these could be forwarded to the subcommittee as soon as possible.

Furthermore, as we continue to gather facts about this proposal, I would appreciate your input on several issues regarding the memorial. First, the Memorandum of Conveyance between the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. and the Department of the Interior states, "To meet objections to the original design, a flagpole and statue have been added to the design. After approval by the appropriate authorities, ground was broken in March 1982 and dedicated at a National Salute to Vietnam Veterans during the week of Veterans Day, 1982." However, the statue was not added until 1984 and, as I understand it, underwent a separate selection and approval process. Would you please explain the process that was followed? If possible, I would like to obtain the minutes from the meeting in which the addition of a statue was first raised and the meeting in which the Frederick Hart piece was approved.

In addition, according to the Memorandum of Conveyance, the Department of Interior shall notify the VVMF in writing of any intended or proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscapings of the Memorial (including walkways, statues, and all other objects conveyed), and the VVMF shall have the opportunity to discuss any such changes with representatives of the Department of the Interior. Does this clause, in your view, require the approval of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the placement of a statue within the 2.2 acre memorial site?

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The Subcommittee expects to conclude its study of the Vietnam Women's Memorial proposal in the near future. I look forward to your reply to our inquiries and appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Rose Oakar". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mary Rose Oakar, Chair
Subcommittee on Libraries
and Memorials

MRO/ad
Enclosure